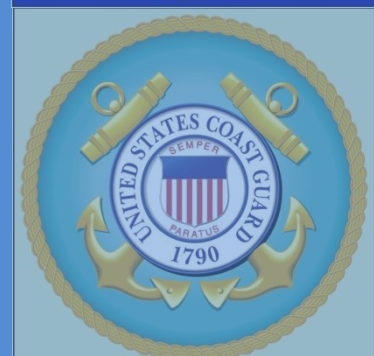


Military & Overseas Voters' Guide



Provided by the Georgia Secretary of State
and the Georgia Elections Division

Military & Overseas Voters



Introduction

Dear Georgia Voter:

As Georgia's Chief Election Officer, it is my great pleasure to provide you with the *Georgia Military and Overseas Voters' Guide*. Within this guide, you will find the information and the application forms necessary for you to vote in Georgia this election year.

Our office, your local election administrators, and the federal government want to provide you with every opportunity to cast your ballot regardless of where you currently serve or reside.

In 2002, Congress passed, and the President signed, a significant piece of election reform legislation – the Help America Vote Act. Some of the most important measures included in this law pertain to members of the military and U.S. residents living abroad.

Federal law now requires that Military Voting Assistance Officers be given the time and resources they need to help military personnel vote. Likewise, the Department of Defense must provide timely information about voting deadlines and make certain all military ballots are properly postmarked.

States may not refuse absentee ballot applications for being submitted earlier than the general deadline and if a state rejects an absentee ballot application from a military or overseas voter, the voter must be notified why the application was rejected.

The right of citizens to popularly elect those who will represent them is among the most important civil liberties. This right does not end at Georgia's state line or our Nation's border. I hope you will find this information useful and in return will take the opportunity to cast your vote this year.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Handel
Secretary of State

Reset

Military & Overseas Voters



General Information

Your Georgia voting rights extend all over the globe and we want to make voting outside of your home county easy and efficient. Please review the questions and answers below to ensure that you are able to participate in the upcoming elections – even while away from home.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE AS A GEORGIA CITIZEN?

You have the right to vote in a Georgia election if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- You are a citizen of the United States; *AND*
- You are a legal resident of Georgia; *AND*
- You will be at least 18 years of age on Election Day; *AND*
- You are not serving a sentence for a felony of moral turpitude; *AND*
- You are registered to vote.

WHAT IS UOCAVA?

Georgia citizens who are either temporarily or permanently overseas and all active military personnel, including their spouses and dependents, are eligible to by absentee ballot under The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and Georgia state law.

WHO IS A MILITARY VOTER?

A military voter is an individual serving away from his/her place of permanent residence who is also:

- A uniformed or military voter is one who is a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine or the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service or the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and who is absent from their precinct on the date of the election due to their service.
- A member of the Georgia National Guard deployed or on assignment outside of Georgia.
- A spouse or dependent of a member referred to above who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.

WHO IS AN OVERSEAS VOTER?

- **Temporarily Overseas:** A voter who is temporarily overseas is a citizen who would be qualified as an eligible voter to vote at their polling location in Georgia if they were not overseas.
- **Permanently Overseas:** A voter permanently overseas is a citizen who currently has no plans to return to Georgia but is authorized by federal law to vote in Georgia because they maintained residence in Georgia for at least 20 days immediately prior to their departure from the United States. **A voter who lives abroad and no longer has a legal residence in Georgia may only vote for federal offices.**

I'M NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE. WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

- You must be registered by the 5th Monday prior to an election to be eligible to vote.

Military & Overseas Voters



Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Q&A

AS A UOCAVA VOTER, HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

When you are not able to vote in person at your home precinct, there are provisions which allow you to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. The Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) is a universal form used for both voter registration and absentee ballot requests. This form, including Georgia instructions, can be accessed by any of the following ways:

- [Georgia Secretary of State Website: FPCA and Georgia Instructions](#)
- [Federal Voting Assistance Program \(FVAP\)](#)
- [Overseas Vote Foundation](#) interactive online form

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT MY VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION TO MY HOME COUNTY?

- Your county election office will process your voter registration.
- Upon approval, you will be mailed a card designating your voting precincts and districts.
- In the case of rejection, you will be notified by mail and given the specific reason why.

AS A UOCAVA, HOW DO I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

The Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) is the universal form used for UOCAVA absentee ballot requests. The form can be obtained in any of the following ways:

- [Georgia Secretary of State Website: FPCA and Georgia Instructions](#)
- [Federal Voting Assistance Program \(FVAP\)](#)
- [The Overseas Vote Foundation](#)

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- Applications may be submitted to your county of permanent residence up to **180 days prior** to a primary or election in which a federal candidate appears on the ballot as well as for any runoffs resulting there from including presidential preference primaries for two general elections.

HOW DO I GET MY REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT TO MY COUNTY OFFICE?

- The signed application must be mailed if you are registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot with the same application.
- The signed application can be mailed, faxed or emailed (as an attachment) if you are already registered and are simply requesting your absentee ballot.
- To check your registration status, you may access the Georgia Secretary of State Poll Locator at <http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/polllocator/>

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL (ATTACHMENT) MY ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION?

- Applications for absentee ballots which include voter registration **must** be mailed
- Your county election office will review your application. If it is complete and you are otherwise qualified, the clerk will mail a ballot back to the address you give on your application.
- Your approved absentee ballot application remains in effect for the next two general election cycles unless you stipulate otherwise. Your ballot will automatically be sent to the address you listed on your application.

Military & Overseas Voters



Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Q&A

WHAT DO I DO AFTER I RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Upon receipt of your absentee ballot from your home county, complete the information and select your candidate choices. The ballot must be mailed.

- The absentee ballot will be accepted up to **3 days** after an election, if postmarked by Election Day.
- Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

WHAT IF I DO NOT RECEIVE MY BALLOT IN TIME?

- **Federal Write In Ballot (FWAB)** – A UOCAVA voter who has made a timely application for an absentee ballot but has not received their ballot and is concerned that they will not be able to return their ballot in time may complete and submit an alternative ballot called the [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#).
- The FWAB allows the voter to write in choices for all offices.
- For federal offices you may indicate your choice by writing in a candidate name or political party.
- When voting for state or local offices on the FWAB, you must write the name of the candidate (not just the party) for your vote to be counted.
- If you have any questions regarding the completion and/or return of your voter registration and/or absentee ballot requests please email your questions to [your home county registrar's office](#).

WHAT DO I DO IF THERE IS A RUNOFF?

- The **State Write In Ballot (SWAB)** is used to vote for Federal and Statewide offices (U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor, Public Service Commissioner, Justice of Supreme Court, and Judge of the Court of Appeals) in Primary runoffs and General Election runoffs in which that office may appear on the ballot.
- An eligible absentee elector who has requested an absentee ballot using the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) for the General Primary or the General Election will automatically receive a SWAB (including all necessary envelopes) along with the absentee ballot for the General Primary Election and the General Election. **No special request for the SWAB is necessary.**
- In the event an eligible elector did not request a Primary absentee ballot or a General Election absentee ballot, the elector may access the online version of the [SWAB](#) at www.sos.georgia.gov/elections or may contact the local county registrar to request that a SWAB be sent to the eligible UOCAVA voter by facsimile. All requests for absentee ballots (including SWABS) must be made in writing before any absentee ballot can be counted. If you do not have a request on file with the registrar's office please obtain an absentee ballot application at www.sos.georgia.gov/elections which can be faxed to the [county registrar](#).
- SWABS for Primary runoffs and General Election runoffs that are postmarked by the date of the Primary runoff or General Election runoff, if proper in all other respects, shall be counted if received by the registrar within the three day period following such runoff election.
- If you have previously requested all absentee ballots as allowed by law, your local county registrar will also mail you a regular absentee ballot containing all runoff races for which you are eligible to vote. In the event both ballots are received prior to the deadline, the registrars will count the regular absentee ballot and not the SWAB.

WHAT IF I AM NO LONGER A UOCAVA VOTER OR I HAVE BEEN REASSIGNED TO A NEW LOCATION?

If the address listed on your application changes due to reassignment or if you return to the states, you will need to update your voter registration by contacting your county election office.



Military & Overseas Voters

Election Resources

2010 ELECTION CALENDAR

Elections	Voter Registration Deadline	Election Date
Special Election	February 16, 2010	March 16, 2010
Runoff Date	February 16, 2010	April 13, 2010
General Primary/Special	June 21, 2010	July 20, 2010
Runoff Date	June 21, 2010	August 10, 2010
Special Election	August 23, 2010	September 21, 2010
Runoff Date	August 23, 2010	October 19, 2010
General/NonPartisan/Special	October 4, 2010	November 2, 2010
Runoff Date	October 4, 2010	November 30, 2010

Key Dates:

April 14, 2009	Earliest day for a political body to begin circulating nomination petitions for state-wide candidates nominated by convention. O.C.G.A. 21-2-182
January 1, 2010	Earliest day to file and publish a notice of intention to be a write-in candidate in the November General/Nonpartisan Election. O.C.G.A. 21-2-133 (a)
January 8, 2010	Earliest day for an Independent or Political Body candidate to begin circulating a nomination petition for an office other than a Political Body candidate running for a state-wide office in which they are nominated by state-wide convention. O.C.G.A. 21-2-170 (e)
February 16, 2010	Last day for a person to register and be eligible to vote in the March Special Election. O.C.G.A. 21-2-224 (a)
April 26, 2010 9:00 a.m.	Earliest day for a Political Party candidate to file Declaration of Candidacy to have their name placed on the July General Primary Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-153 (c) (1)
April 30, 2010 12:00 noon	Last day for a Political Party candidate to file Declaration of Candidacy to have their name placed on the July General Primary Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-153 (c) (1)
June 20, 2010	Last day for a political body to hold a convention for the purpose of nominating candidates to be placed on the November General Election Ballot. O.C. G.A. 21-2-172 (e)
June 21, 2010	Last day for a person to register and be eligible to vote in the July General Primary/Special Election. O.C.G.A. 21-2-224 (a)
June 28, 2010 9:00 a.m.	Earliest day for an Independent or Political Body candidate to file a nomination petition. O.C.G.A. 21-2-132 (d)
June 28, 2010 9:00 a.m.	Earliest day for an Independent, Political Body, or Nonpartisan candidate to file Notice of Candidacy to have their name placed on the November General Election Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-132 (c) (1) (2)
July 2, 2010 12:00 noon	Last day for Independent, Political Body, or Nonpartisan candidate to file Notice of Candidacy to have their named placed on the November General Election Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-132 (c) (1)(2)
July 13, 2010 12:00 noon	Last day for an Independent or a Political body candidate to file the required nomination petition. O.C.G.A. 21-2-132 (d);21-2-187
July 13, 2010 12:00 noon	Last day for a political body desiring to nominate its statewide candidates by convention to file a qualifying petition. O.C.G.A. 21-2-187
August 23, 2010	Last day for a person to register and be eligible to vote in the September Special Election. O.C.G.A. 21-2-224 (a)
September 7, 2010	Last day to file and publish a notice of intention to be a write-in candidate in the November General/Nonpartisan/Special Election O.C.G.A. 21-2-133 (a)
September 13, 2010	Last day to file affidavit stating the notice of intention to be a write-in candidate has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-133 (b)
October 4, 2010	Last day a person may register and be eligible to vote in the November General/Nonpartisan/Special Election and Runoff O.C.G.A. 21-2-224 (a)



Military & Overseas Voters

Election Resources

STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Secretary of State

214 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-2881
Fax: 404-656-0513
Web: www.sos.ga.gov

Office of Secretary of State Elections Division

2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., S.E.
Suite 1104 West Tower
Atlanta, GA. 30334
404-656-2871
Fax 404-651-9531
Email: Kristen Riley - kriley@sos.ga.gov
Kevin Reaves - kreaves@sos.ga.gov
Web: www.sos.ga.gov/Elections/

Voting Assistance Officers

<http://www.sos.ga.gov/electionconnection/VAO.htm>

FEDERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155
Toll-free: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)
Commercial: (703) 588-1584, DSN 425-1584
Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov
Web: www.fvap.gov

ONLINE UOCAVA BALLOT REQUEST

Overseas Vote Foundation

Overseas Vote Foundation
4786 N. Williamsburg Blvd
Arlington, VA 22207
Email: voterhelpdesk@overseasvotefoundation.org
Web: www.overseasvotefoundation.org

STATE POLITICAL PARTIES

Constitution

Georgia Constitution Party
P.O. Box 2153
Woodstock, Georgia 30188
Phone: 404-506-9336
www.gaconstitutionparty.org

Democrat

Georgia Democratic Party
1100 Spring St., Suite 408
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: 678-278-2008
Fax: 678-278-2059
Email: press@georgiademocrat.org

Libertarian

1776 Peachtree Street NW
Suite 715 South Tower
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: 404-888-9468
Fax: 404-874-8339
Email: info@LPGeorgia.com

Republican

P.O. Box 550008
Atlanta, GA 30355
Phone: 404-257-5559
Fax: 404-257-0779
Email: info@gagop.org



Military & Overseas Voters

Election Resources

TOLL-FREE ACCESS TO FVAP AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Below are toll-free telephone numbers between the countries listed and the FVAP offices in Washington, DC. No cost is incurred by the caller.

You can also use these numbers to contact the Department of Defense Voting Information Center (VIC). The VIC allows you to transfer directly to the office of your elected officials in the U.S. Congress, your State Governor and State Chief Election Official.

When leaving a message, please include your complete name, telephone number, e-mail address (if available) and country from which you are calling.

The United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands share one set of Toll-Free Numbers: Phone: 1-800-438-8683, Fax: 1-800-368-8683. Callers who have access to the Defense Switched Network may dial 425-1584.

American Samoa	633-2872, Then 800-323-8180	Latvia	800-0154
Antigua	1-8778333886	Luxembourg	8002-9087
Australia	1-800-836325	Malaysia	1-800-80-7684
Austria	0800-293478	Marshall Islands	1-8778333886
Bahamas	1-8778333886	Mexico	001-8004388683
Bahrain	80-965	Neth Antilles	001-8004388683
Barbados	1-800-534-2104	Netherlands	0800-02228213
Belgium	0800-11402	New Zealand	0800-446524
Bermuda	1-8778333886	Nicaragua	001-800-2201349
Brazil	0800-891-0619	Norway	800-10520
Canada	1-800-438-8683	Panama	001-800-5071699
Cayman Islands	1-8778333886	Philippines	1-800-1-1114-1341
Chile	123-0-020-3232	Poland	0-0-800-1112-078
China	10-800-120-0925	Portugal	8008-12543
Colombia	01-800-9155-345	Puerto Rico	1-800-438-8683
Costa Rica	0800-0121201	Russia	8-10-8002-3333-011
Denmark	80-884048	Singapore	800-1203891
Dominican Republic	1-888-1562025	South Africa	080-09-90886
Finland	0-800-1-17988	St Lucia	1-877-8333886
France	0800-917-304	St Kitts/Nevis	1-8778333886
Germany	0800-1007428	St Vincent	1-877-8333886
Greece	00800-12-5268	Spain	900-961-668
Guam	1-800-438-8683	Sweden	020-79-2242
Guyana	1-8004388683	Switzerland	0800-564294
Hong Kong	800-962191	Taiwan	00801-13-7322
Hungary	06-800-15007	Thailand	001-800-12-0664536
Indonesia	001-803-011-3116	Trinidad & Tobago	1-800-934-7340
Ireland	1-800-312340	Turkey	008 00151 1163
Israel	1-800-9203230	United Kingdom	08-0002-88056
Italy	800-784460	United States	1-800-438-8683
Jamaica	1-800-6663819	Uruguay	000-413-598-2849
Japan	00531-120896	Venezuela	0800 100 3678
Japan--Yokohama	00531-1208-96	Virgin Islands	1-800-438-8683
Korea	00798-14-800-5748		



Georgia Secretary of State
Karen C. Handel

